

WILLIAM T. COLLINS (VASILIOS T. BUZUNIS)

FEBRUARY 21, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. FEIGHAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 663]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 663) for the relief of William T. Collins (Vasilios T. Buzunis), having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of section 212 (a) (9) and (19) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, William T. Collins, also known as Vasilios Buzunis, may be admitted to the United States for permanent residence if he is found to be otherwise admissible under the provisions of that Act: *Provided*, That these exemptions shall apply only to grounds for exclusion of which the Department of State or the Department of Justice had knowledge prior to the enactment of this Act.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill, as amended, is to waive two excluding clauses of the Immigration and Nationality Act, concerning the inadmissibility of aliens who have committed crimes involving moral turpitude and who have endeavored to enter the United States by misrepresenting material facts, in behalf of William T. Collins, also known as Vasilios Buzunis.

The bill has been amended to waive the excluding clauses in this case rather than to grant the beneficiary permanent residence. That action is consistent with the committee's policy of not granting permanent residence to aliens who have entered the United States illegally.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The beneficiary of the bill is a 50-year-old native of Greece and naturalized citizen of Canada who last entered the United States on January 21, 1953, at Grand Forks, N. Dak., when he was admitted as a citizen upon allegation that he was born in San Francisco. He was first admitted to the United States at Scobey, Mont., on October 19, 1926, as a nonimmigrant for medical treatment and has resided in the United States since except for several trips to Canada. The beneficiary was convicted for several minor offenses during the period 1928-50 and was also convicted for making a false statement in connection with his last entry and was fined \$500. There is a \$75,000 tax claim against him pending in the Tax Court of Internal Revenue Bureau at Milwaukee, Wis. The beneficiary has worked for various carnivals and since 1943 has operated his own carnival show in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Wisconsin. It is valued at \$100,000 to \$150,000 and has approximately 50 employees. The beneficiary has been married to a United States citizen since 1939 and has no children.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated May 11, 1955, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service with reference to the bill reads as follows:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., May 11, 1955.

Hon. HARLEY M. KILGORE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR: In response to your request of the Department of Justice for a report relative to the bills S. 663 and S. 960 for the relief of William T. Collins, also known as Vasilios T. Buzunis, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiary. This memorandum has been prepared from the Immigration and Naturalization Service files relating to the beneficiary by the St. Paul office of this Service, which has custody of those files.

The bill would grant this alien the status of a permanent resident of the United States upon the payment of the required visa fee. It also directs that one number be deducted from the appropriate immigration quota for the first year that such quota is available.

The beneficiary is chargeable to the quota of Greece.

Sincerely,

_____, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES CONCERNING WILLIAM T. COLLINS, BENEFICIARY OF S. 663 AND S. 960

William T. Collins, also known as Vasilios Buzunis, was born in Lavidou, Greece, on February 24, 1905. His last residence abroad was in Canada. He became a citizen of Canada through his father's naturalization in that country on August 17, 1914. He was admitted at Scobey, Mont., on October 19, 1926, as a nonimmigrant for the purpose of seeking medical treatment. He has resided in the United States since such entry. He has made several visits to Canada, the last entry being at Grand Forks, N. Dak., on January 21, 1953, at which time he was admitted as a citizen of the United States upon his allegation that he was born in San Francisco, Calif. Deportation proceedings have been instituted, and he has been found to be deportable from the United States on the grounds that he was not in possession of an immigrant visa and that he willfully misrepresented a material fact. The special inquiry officer on May 6, 1954, granted him voluntary departure with the proviso that if he fails to depart an order of deportation be entered. The Board of Immigration Appeals on January 12, 1955, affirmed the decision.

Mr. Collins worked for various carnival operators from 1939 to 1943. Since that time he has operated his own carnival show, which is valued between \$100,000 and \$150,000. The carnival operates in the States of Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Wisconsin; employs approximately 50 people; and has from 150 to 250 concessionaires who follow the show.

Mr. Collins received a 90-day sentence for vagrancy on October 7, 1928, under the name of William J. Bowman; 90-day suspended sentence for contributing to the delinquency of a minor on February 10, 1931; 90-day sentence for contributing to the delinquency of a minor on May 2, 1931, under the name of Jack Kelley; \$100 fine for gambling on September 27, 1932; \$25 fine and costs for gambling on October 10, 1937; 30-day sentence for vagrancy on January 24, 1936; and a \$500 fine for knowingly making false statements in connection with his last entry to the United States. There is presently pending before the Tax Court of the Internal Revenue Bureau at Milwaukee, Wis., a Federal income tax claim of approximately \$75,000 against Mr. Collins for the years 1946-50. A tax lien in the amount of \$80,286.27 has been filed by the Internal Revenue Bureau against his property pending the outcome of this litigation.

Mr. Collins has been falsely claiming United States citizenship for many years to avoid difficulty in crossing the border from Canada. He falsely stated he was born in San Francisco, Calif., when registering under the Selective Training and Service Act on April 18, 1941. He registered as a voter in Ramsey County, Minn., on February 16, 1948, falsely alleging birth in San Francisco, Calif. The records show that he voted in Hennepin County, Minn., on October 13, 1952, falsely stating he was born in San Francisco, Calif. He married a native-born citizen on June 13, 1939. His wife testified that she learned from her husband at or about the time of their marriage that he had been born in Greece and was not a citizen of the United States.

Senator Edward J. Thye, the author of the bill, has submitted a number of letters and documents in connection with the case, among which are the following:

RE WILLIAM T. COLLINS (FORMERLY VASILIOS T. BUZUNIS)

To Whom It May Concern:

Owing to the fact that there is no further administrative steps to be taken or relief available to Mr. William T. Collins, formerly known as Vasilios T. Buzunis, under the Immigration and Nationality Act, and in support of the bill (S. 663) which was introduced in his behalf, he (Mr. Collins) respectfully submits for consideration the following facts:

Mr. Collins was born on February 24, 1905, in a village near Tripolis, Greece, where he was baptized and given the name of Vasilios T. Buzunis. In the year 1914 his parents decided to leave Greece and go to Canada for permanent residence. His parents left Greece for Canada in the early part of February 1914, and took him with them. At that time Mr. Collins was only 9 years of age and in his third year in grade school. On their way to Canada the entire Buzunis family entered the United States at the port of New York on or about March 2, 1914, and from there they continued their journey to Vanguard, Saskatchewan, Canada, where, upon their arrival, Mr. Buzunis, Sr., acquired a homestead. Mr. Collins lived in Canada on the homestead with his parents until 1923. Due to an accident which he sustained while on his father's homestead, he went to the Mayo Clinic, at Rochester, Minn., where he was treated for about a month and at the end of that time he returned to his father's homestead in Canada.

In September 1926, Mr. Collins decided to come to the United States to get a job to earn his livelihood because he had found it very difficult to get a job in Canada, and his father's income from the homestead was not enough to support the entire family; and with that in mind he went to the United States Immigration office at Scobey, Mont., and requested permission to enter the United States for permanent residence. The immigration officer at Scobey, Mont., asked him what his name was and he answered Vasilios T. Buzunis; he asked him where he was born and he answered that he was born in Greece; he asked him what his nationality was and he answered that it was Greek. In short, the immigration officer asked him a number of questions and he truthfully answered all of them, and thereupon the immigration officer collected from him the required sum of \$8 head tax, and permitted him to enter the United States for permanent residence.

From September 1926 to June 1939, Mr. Collins worked for various carnival

operators in various parts of the United States trying to make an honest living; and he succeeded in doing so. On June 13, 1939, he married his American-born wife, with whom he lived happily thereafter and they are still living as a happy married couple. At this point it might be stated that his wife testified at the hearing in St. Paul, Minn., in his deportation proceedings, that she and her husband have always lived a happy married life; that they have always been and still are devoted to each other, and that they have always been inseparable.

From 1939 to 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Collins worked for various carnival operators throughout the United States and by economizing and careful handling of their earnings they hoped to eventually have their own carnival shows.

In the spring of 1943 they started their own carnival show in a small way and as time went on they kept building it up with the result that by 1953 they succeeded in building it up to a substantial enterprise.

During these years (from 1943 to 1953) they operated their carnival shows in many cities and towns in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, and Nebraska. In connection with their carnival operations during those years they came in contact and dealt with city and county officials, fair officials, and many substantial businessmen. Their carnival contracts were renewed by those people from year to year without any complaints on the part of any of the officials or businessmen with whom they dealt from year to year, which of course speaks very highly of their honesty, integrity, and upright manner in which they conducted their carnival operations and in which they dealt with all those people. Moreover, each time they went into a town with their carnival shows they always invited unfortunate children in orphanages and other institutions and places and treated them with ice cream, popcorn, rides, and other entertainment without charge in order to make those little fellows as happy as possible, which undoubtedly speaks for their sympathetic hearts and humanitarian instincts.

On January 19, 1953, Mr. Collins made a short business trip by plane to Winnipeg, Canada, for the purpose of soliciting carnival business in that city. He stayed in Winnipeg, Canada, for about 2 days and then went to take a plane to come back to his home in Minneapolis, Minn. When he appeared before the immigration officer at the airport in Winnipeg, Canada (January 21, 1953), for preexamination as to his admissibility into the United States, he stated to this officer that he was born in San Francisco, Calif., and he was listed on the plane's manifest as a citizen of the United States, which of course was not true. His only reason for alleging birth in the United States was to avoid being detained and not with any intent on his part to defraud our Government, or anyone else. As a matter of fact, neither our Government nor anyone else was in anyway damaged by his foolish allegation to the effect that he was born in the United States. He and he alone was materially damaged by so doing because as a result of it he subjected himself to deportation proceedings as well as prosecution proceedings in the United States district court at Fargo, N. Dak., and caused a lot of trouble, inconvenience, and expense to himself, and at the same time he placed his wife and their property in a very precarious position; because when he reached Grand Forks, N. Dak., he was placed under arrest by the immigration authorities and charged with making a false and fraudulent representation with reference to his place of birth and thereby fraudulently entered the United States. Shortly thereafter the immigration authorities also filed a complaint against him in the United States district court at Fargo, N. Dak., charging him with the offense of making false representations for the purpose of obtaining entry into the United States.

Several hearings were had in his deportation proceedings before a special inquiry officer at St. Paul, Minn.

The special inquiry officer frankly and quite clearly stated in his findings that Mr. Collins' alleged birth in the United States was for convenience only and not with the intent to make a false and misleading statement of a material fact for the purpose of entering the United States.

During those hearings it appeared that the examiner of the immigration office at St. Paul, Minn., had requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation to check up on Mr. Collins and see if they could find any criminal record against him. And it appeared that after a thorough investigation the Federal Bureau of Investigation did not find any criminal record against Mr. Collins with the exception of several minor misdemeanors which Mr. Collins committed between the years 1926-36, for which he paid a very small fine. However, no moral turpitude was involved in any of those misdemeanors which he committed some 20 and 25 years ago while he was still young and foolish.

During all the years from 1926 to the end of 1954 that Mr. Collins lived in the United States, he was never convicted of any crime; he never served any time in a penal institution; he was never a Communist; he was never a sympathizer of communism; he was never a gangster or a racketeer; he was never a subversive or a member of any subversive organization; he was never a dangerous criminal; he was never a homosexual; he was never what you might call an undesirable person or a bad risk or a man dangerous to our society, and in short, he never was and he is not now the type of person that the Immigration and Nationality Act was intended to exclude from the United States.

Both he and his wife have always been and still are upright, honest, and law-abiding citizens; that they have always lived a happy married life; that they have always tried to make an honest living, and that they have always been and still are devoted to each other and inseparable.

At the hearing before the special inquiry officer in St. Paul, Minn., Mr. Collins had 10 citizens of high standing and substantial businessmen for many years, to testify for him as character witnesses. Those men came from various parts of the State of Minnesota and every one of those witnesses spoke very highly of Mr. Collins, stating among other things that both Mr. and Mrs. Collins are and always have been for a period of more than 15 years, honest, upright, loyal and law-abiding citizens and have always conducted themselves on a very high plane.

At those hearings it also appeared without dispute that Mr. Collins is and for many years heretofore had been a member in good standing of the following associations, organizations, and fraternal orders:

Iowa Fair Managers Association.

Showmans League of America.

Minnesota Federation of County Fairs.

Wisconsin Federation of Fairs.

Lions Club of Bloomington.

Automobile Club of St. Paul, Minn.

Hellenic Beneficial Society, Phoenix, St. Paul, Minn.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, St. Paul, Minn.

Greek Arch Diocese of North and South America, New York, N. Y.

North Dakota Fair Managers

and the following Masonic bodies:

Shekinah Lodge 171, St. Paul, Minn.

Royal Arch Masons.

Commandery.

Order of the Shrine of Osmund Temple, St. Paul, Minn.

And it is reasonable to assume that no man of questionable character or questionable reputation, or questionable loyalty to our Government and our institutions, would be accepted by those organizations and fraternal orders.

It also appeared during those hearings that in 1941 and 1942, while Mr. Collins was a resident of St. Paul, Minn., he served as a member of the board of trustees of the Greek Orthodox Church in that city, which of course was an elective office to which he was elected by the members in good standing of that church, who would be in a position to know what kind of person Mr. Collins was and if there was any question about his honesty and uprightness they would not have elected him to that trust.

It also appeared at those hearings that Mr. Collins and his wife had over a period of years gladly contributed, to the very best of their ability, to all worthy causes.

In connection with their carnival operations over a period of years, it appeared without dispute that Mr. and Mrs. Collins employed and are still employing, approximately 250 people, which of course means quite a substantial payroll for our citizens.

In addition thereto they pay each year quite a substantial amount in income tax, withholding tax, social-security tax, real and personal property tax, besides what they spend each year for themselves and for the maintenance and operation of their carnival equipment and their carnival business.

At this point it might also be stated, that the immigration examiner of the immigration office in St. Paul, deemed it advisable to bring out at the hearing that Mr. Collins is in trouble with the Internal Revenue Department. The true fact of the matter is that his trouble with the Internal Revenue Department is nothing more than an honest civil dispute. To be more specific, over a period of 6 or 7 years Mr. Collins took certain business deductions which he claims were deductible. The Internal Revenue Department on the other hand claims that the deductions which Mr. Collins took were not deductible, and there lies the dispute between

him and the Internal Revenue Department. The matter is now in the tax courts and Mr. Collins is advised that it will come up for hearing some time during the year of 1955. The special tax counsel who represents Mr. Collins, tells him that he is confident of a decision in favor of Mr. Collins. But be that as it may the fact is that Mr. Collins is not charged with criminal fraud or tax evasion, and if the tax court finally decides the case in favor of the Government, Mr. Collins will pay whatever amount the court determines that he owes and that will be the end of the dispute above mentioned.

On February 2, 1954, Mr. Collins appeared in the United States district court, at Fargo, N. Dak., and admitted that his alleged birth in the United States was not true and he entered a plea of guilty to the complaint which was filed against him. The court took the matter under advisement, and in September 1954, fined him \$500 which he paid.

Some time after the conclusion of the hearings in the deportation proceedings against Mr. Collins, the special inquiry officer of the immigration office at St. Paul, Minn., made and entered his decision to the effect that under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Mr. Collins was deportable. Shortly thereafter an appeal was taken to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington, D. C., in the hope that the members of that Board might liberally construe the act above mentioned and exercise their sound judgment and discretion thereby granting Mr. Collins suspension of deportation. Thereafter and on January 12, 1955, the Board above mentioned held that under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Mr. Collins does not qualify for suspension of deportation, and dismissed the appeal. And when that happened there were no further administrative steps that could be taken and no further administrative relief is available to him.

From the above and foregoing it clearly appears that Mr. Collins has already lived in the United States approximately 29 years, whereas, he only lived in his native land 9 years and in Canada approximately 12 years. As already stated, with the exception of the few misdemeanors that he committed some 20 or 25 years ago, his entire residence in the United States has been that of an honest, loyal and law-abiding citizen. If he was to be deported to Greece he would be going to a country in which he knows nobody because he left that country when he was only 9 years of age. On the other hand, if he was to be deported to Canada he would be going to a strange country. Our country is where his American-born wife is, where his business is, and where all his friends and acquaintances are, and it would seem only reasonable to say that the members of the United States Congress would be fully justified under the circumstances in passing the bill which has been introduced in his behalf, thereby allowing him to remain in our country where he lived most of his life, so that he may continue his happy married life with his American-born wife, and they continue with the operation of their business and the preservation of the property for which both of them worked hard over a period of many years to accumulate.

Respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM T. COLLINS
By PETER E. KAMUCHEY, *His Attorney.*

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, the sponsor of a similar bill (S. 960) received the following letter regarding the beneficiary:

KANDIYOHI COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION,
Spicer, Minn., April 12, 1955.

HON. HUBERT HUMPHREY,
Senate Chambers, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR HUMPHREY: This letter is relative to the bill S. 960 which you are presenting for the relief of William T. Collins, of Minneapolis, Minn., and wish to make the following comments as to his character and qualifications for citizenship.

I have known William T. Collins for approximately 20 years, and during this period as secretary of the Kandiyohi County Fair, I have had numerous business dealings with him, in connection with the operations of the midway attractions at our annual fair. In all of these dealings, I have found Mr. Collins to be absolutely honest and above reproach, constantly desiring to be of service to the public and the people attending the fair, willing at all times to extend special rates and concessions to children and in every possible manner endeavoring to cooperate with the writer and the local fair board.

In making the above statement, I am sure that I also expressed the opinions and impressions of the many businessmen and merchants of the city of Willmar, with

whom Mr. Collins has done business on his many appearances at our fair. Not one word of criticism has been expressed to me regarding his local business dealings, nor in regard to his character or the operations of the midway attractions.

Our greatest joy in dealing with Mr. Collins, has been his absolute opposition to anything of an immoral or questionable nature on his midway or in connection with any of his operations.

It has also been my pleasure to be in the company of Mr. Collins on numerous and various social occasions, and at these occasions he has never suggested or tolerated anything of an immoral nature, always conducting himself in a manner above reproach. On several occasions we have attended the ceremonial of the Osman Temple at St. Paul, and I have been most impressed by the willingness of William Collins to contribute time and money to the cause of crippled and unfortunate children, irregardless of race or creed.

I consider William T. Collins a man of excellent character, his honesty and integrity above reproach, and deeply devoted and loyal to all of his friends, a truly 100 percent citizen in every respect.

Yours very truly,

ALBERT E. THOMPSON.

Representative McCarthy, the author of a companion bill (H. R. 4283), appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary and recommended the favorable consideration of this bill. Mr. McCarthy also submitted the following letter in support of this measure:

MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN., January 24, 1956.

Hon. EUGENE J. MCCARTHY.

*Congressman from Minnesota,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCCARTHY: I have your telegram in which you state that the Judiciary Committee have decided to defer action on your bill for the relief of Mr. William Collins pending receipt of additional information regarding a tax claim, which is presently before the Internal Revenue Department at Milwaukee, Wis., and that you would like to have me supply you with information regarding the tax claim above mentioned.

Let me state at the very outset that during the hearings at the immigration office in St. Paul in connection with the deportation proceedings against Mr. Collins, the examiner for the Government for some unknown reason deemed it advisable to inject into the record that Mr. Collins was in trouble with the Internal Revenue Department. I could not see at the time how that had anything to do with the deportation proceedings pending against Mr. Collins, but in view of the fact that this income tax matter was handled for Mr. Collins by a special tax counsel at Milwaukee, Wis., I decided not to say anything more about the matter until I had a chance to discuss it with Mr. Collins' tax counsel at Milwaukee.

Sometime later I went to Milwaukee, Wis., and discussed the entire matter with Mr. Collins' tax counsel and he stated to me at the time that Mr. Collins was not charged with criminal fraud; that there was an honest dispute between between him and the Internal Revenue Department and that the matter was pending before the United States Tax Court in Milwaukee, Wis.

He further stated to me that he was strongly of the opinion that Mr. Collins would win, but even if the court decided that Mr. Collins does owe additional tax that Mr. Collins would undoubtedly pay it and the matter would be closed.

I might say at the risk of repetition, that Mr. Collins is not charged with criminal fraud in the matter and as I said before the whole thing is an honest dispute between him and the Internal Revenue Department, which I think should not in any way prejudice him in his efforts to remain in the United States.

The entire record in the deportation proceedings against him clearly shows that Mr. Collins was never a Communist; that he was never a sympathizer of communism; that he was never a racketeer; that he was never a criminal; that he was never subversive; that he was never a homosexual; that he is not an undesirable person; that he is not a bad risk or a man dangerous to our society; and, in short, he never was and is not now the type of a person that the McCarran Act, so-called, was intended to exclude from the United States.

On the contrary the record clearly shows that he and his American-born wife always were and still are honest, upright, loyal, and lawabiding citizens and that he and his wife have always lived a happy married life, devoted to each other and inseparable.

The record also shows that he and his wife are now well established; that they own their own home and also own and operate a substantial enterprise in which during their season they employ approximately 350-400 people in connection with their carnival operations, which means quite a substantial payroll for our citizens.

Under all the facts and circumstances which clearly appear in the record of his deportation case I cannot help but feel that the tax dispute between him and the Internal Revenue Department should not in any way cause an unfavorable action by the Judiciary Committee because as I have already stated the tax matter in question is an honest, civil dispute between him and the Internal Revenue Department, which eventually will be decided by the United States Tax Court and, if the decision of the court is against Mr. Collins, he will pay whatever the court determines that he owes, if the court determines that he owes anything, and that will be the end of the matter.

As soon as you may conveniently do so I would appreciate your advising me of the outcome.

Sincerely yours,

PETER E. KAMUCHEY.

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the committee is of the opinion that S. 663, as amended should be enacted and accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

O